

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
8:30 a.m., September 29, 2011
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Shasta River TMDL Action Plan and Waiver Update

DISCUSSION

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to inform the Regional Water Board and the public about progress made in implementing the Shasta River TMDL. The progress report will be used for evaluation of the Shasta River TMDL conditional waiver which expires January 26, 2012.

Background

The Shasta River TMDL Action Plan became law on January 26, 2007. The TMDL contains an Action Plan that requires landowners to take specific actions to reduce pollutant loads and ultimately achieve water quality standards. The Shasta River is listed on the Federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list as impaired due to elevated stream temperatures and reduced dissolved oxygen levels. The Action Plan requires landowners to implement measures that will protect streams and enhance riparian vegetation to reduce stream temperatures, and to reduce discharges of sediment, nutrients, and other oxygen-consuming materials in order to increase dissolved oxygen levels. The TMDL also encourages landowners to work together to improve water conservation and water management efforts in order to increase dedicated cold water in the Shasta River.

The Shasta River TMDL contains a waiver of waste discharge requirements for discharges related to specific land management activities in the Shasta River Watershed. The conditional waiver expires on January 26, 2012. The workshop will provide information on the effectiveness of the conditional waiver so the Regional Water Board can decide whether to renew or modify the existing waiver program at a future date.

At the request of stakeholders in the Shasta watershed, many TMDL implementation efforts were intended to be locally led by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District.

For more information on the Shasta TMDL, including the action plan, visit our web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/shasta_river/

Workshop

Regional Water Board staff will provide an overview of the Shasta River TMDL and report on the progress made toward implementation. The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District will provide a five year TMDL progress report. The Nature Conservancy will report on extensive restoration efforts on their lands in the watershed. See Attachment 1 for the status of current implementation.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item.

Attachment 1
Status of Current Implementation Efforts

Range and Riparian Management

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Livestock grazers and riparian landowners	Employ stewardship and report annually either individually or through SVRCD	Received reports from many landowners in 2008 and 2011. SVRCD developed report that majority of streams have been fenced.	Now that SVRCD has secured 319 grant funding, remainder of watershed should be fenced to protect riparian areas.
RWB, SVRCD, Shasta Riparian Working Group CDFG, TNC, others	Provide technical support, coordinate monitoring	Experimental riparian planting and studies underway. Past planting has shown limited success. Extensive stream monitoring currently being conducted.	Continue to expand support and coordination with SVRCD and other agencies. Continue riparian planting work.
RWB	Develop appropriate regulatory tools	Participating in the Statewide grazing regulatory program project.	Continue involvement in grazing project.
RWB	If above work is insufficient, request ranch management plans or a ROWD	One ranch plan requested for large landowner in key cold water refugia area. Several miles of stream are now fenced and protected.	Develop list of landowners in need of ranch plans and work cooperatively or require under RWB authority if needed.
SWRCB	Riparian Policy	Deferring to SB wetland policy development	
RWB, SVRCD	Report to RWB every two years, achieve standards 2016-17.	3 reporting workshops to RWB 2007-2008.	Provide written report and workshop September 2011.
CDFG	Administer ITP/Coho Recovery Plan	On hold pending resolution of lawsuit.	Revised waiver may need to consider key elements of ITP that were expected to be in place at this time.

Tailwater

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Irrigators	Employ stewardship and report annually, either individually or through RCD.	Received reports in 2008 and 2011.	SVRCD to provide written report and workshop to be held September 2011.
RWB, SVRCD	Develop monitoring program with local partners to evaluate program effectiveness.	Tailwater study completed by SVRCD. On-going monitoring, project prioritization and implementation.	Continued monitoring, project prioritization and implementation.
RWB	Develop appropriate regulatory tool(s) by 2013	Region-wide irrigated agriculture permitting program effort underway.	Form stakeholder advisory group, hold group meetings.
RWB	If above work is insufficient, request tailwater management plan or ROWD.	On-going cooperative efforts.	Require ROWD's for high priority discharges in cold water refugia area if needed.
Irrigators	Achieve standards by 2016-17	Considerable progress has been made identifying extent of tailwater discharges. Tailwater is now considered most significant and readily addressable source of temperature and DO impairments under RWB jurisdiction.	Significant improvements expected by 2017.

Water Use and Flow

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Diversers	Increase dedicated cold water instream flow and report to the RWB every two years, either through the SVRCD or individually on progress – with a final report by 2011-12.	Report and plan in preparation by SVRCD. TNC is working on 1707 dedication and water trust.	If insufficient progress made, RB may recommend that the SB seek modifications of the decree.
RWB	Work with locals to develop a monitoring program	Ongoing	Ongoing
CDFG	Administer ITP	ITP effort on hold pending resolution of lawsuit	
SVRCD and DWR	Assist diversers in developing and implementing water management plan	Water management plan in preparation by SVRCD.	Progress ongoing

Impoundments

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Owners of flashboard dams and other minor impoundments	Remove/reengineer and report to RWB on progress each year.	3 out of 5 impoundments have been removed. An additional impoundment to be removed 2011/2012.	Work with last diverter to remove impoundment.

Dwinnell Dam

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Montague Water Conservation District	Within 2 years report on a plan to bring the discharge from Dwinnell into compliance.	Reports submitted. Some problems/solutions identified. Plan still incomplete. Additional monitoring studies needed.	Continue to work with MWCD.

Lake Shastina

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Montague, Weed, Siskiyou, Caltrans, Shastina, USFS, USBLM, Private timberland owners	By 2008-09 complete a study of conditions and factors affecting water quality conditions in Shastina and develop a plan to achieve standards.	Study not complete. Planning work on-going, but mechanism needs reconsideration.	Additional monitoring, studies needed. Reconsider nature and scope of planning effort.

Other efforts

Who	What/When	Status	Next Steps
Yreka WWTP	Comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order R1-2004-0037.	Terms of CAO met; CAO rescinded in 2009.	Action completed.
Yreka, Weed, City of Montague, Edgewood, Shastina, etc	By 2008-09 develop plans to improve runoff, begin implementation by 2011-12.	Yreka proposed as MS4 Phase II permittee. Little progress on plans for other entities.	Work with any new MS4 Phase II permittees. Reevaluate actions for other entities.
RWB	Evaluate Caltrans stormwater program	Shasta TMDL requirements proposed for incorporation into Caltrans stormwater permit.	SB adoption of Caltrans stormwater permit.